kahar barpaya" appearing in *Rashtriya Sahara and Amar Ujala*, Delhi on 3rd and 4th February, 2003 respectively;

(b) whether Government have analyzed such law and order situation prevailing in the national capital city itself; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by Delhi Police to improve the law and order situation in the National Capital Territory of Delhi include, *inter-alia*, intensification of beat patrolling; posting of armed pickets at strategic points, strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals; verification of antecedents of domestic servants; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meeting with officers of neighbouring States; meetings with members of Residents Welfare Associations; and deployment of police personnel in plain clothes in running buses market places, business places and other crime-prone places.

Task force to face natural calamities

†810. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that our country is vast, having hills, deserts and rivers and surrounded with sea where any natural calamity may struck in any part of country every year;

(b) if so, whether Government have constituted such trained and organised task force at district level which could be capable in dealing with excess rainfall, hailstorm, land sliding, flood and earthquake like natural calamities; and

(c) if so, the names of the States where such task force have been set up?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strategy adopted for dealing with national calamities envisages building up of capabilities at National, State, District, Block and Village levels for mitigation and preparedness for natural and manmade disasters as well as for rapid intervention in the event of such disasters. This, *inter-alia*, involves strengthening of search and rescue capabilities by training and equipping specialized teams. Action has been initiated to train such teams at the national level.

(c) In December, 2002, the Ministry of Home Affairs *inter-alia* advised the State Governments to consider setting up specialized composite search and rescue teams comprising one coy. of the State Armed Police trained and equipped to carry out specialized search and rescue, one mobile engineering unit with necessary equipments and one medical assistance team. The steps taken by the State Governments will be reviewed in the Conference of State Relief Commissioners in March 2003.

Setting up of Integrated Command for Disaster Management

†811. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Rapid Action Force or Integrated Command for disaster management, if so, the details thereof alongwith their jurisdiction ;

(b) who will Head the integrated command, what will be his jurisdiction and whether command will be permanent or temporary; and

(c) whether Government have taken any immediate action by conducting any inquiry into it, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for coordinating/supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic support in the event of natural calamities and manmade disasters of severe nature. A proposal for the establishment of a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the Ministry of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.